BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF STAFFORD STAFFORD, VIRGINIA

MINUTES

Special Meeting January 12, 2010

<u>Call to Order.</u> A special meeting of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Mark Dudenhefer, Chairman, at 7:01 P.M., Tuesday, January 12, 2010, in the Board Chambers, Stafford County Administration Center.

Roll Call. The following members were present: Harry E. Crisp II; Mark Dudenhefer; Paul V. Milde III; Gary F. Snellings; Susan B. Stimpson; Cord A. Sterling and Robert "Bob" Woodson.

Also in attendance were: Anthony J. Romanello, County Administrator; Joe Howard, County Attorney; Marcia C. Hollenberger, Chief Deputy Clerk; Pamela L. Timmons, Deputy Clerk; associated staff, and interested parties.

<u>Pledge of Allegiance</u> Ms. Stimpson led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

<u>Invocation</u> Ms. Stimpson gave the Invocation.

Opening Comments Mr. Dudenhefer thanked everyone for attending and noted that the meeting was to discuss Stafford County's economic future. It was time to recognize the County's weaknesses and to turn them into strengths. The County needs to maintain and strengthen its place to be a location that companies want to come to, and build a future. By growing its economy, the County will be able to keep taxes low and provide the services that the residents require.

Ms. Chris Chmura, Chmura Economics and Analytics, gave a presentation and answered Board member questions. Mr. Woodson inquired as to what types of businesses were coming into (and leaving) the County following Ms. Chmura's comment that 400 businesses came into Stafford County and 300 businesses left.

Mr. Sterling asked what Ms. Chmura felt would help to build the employment base in the County. Ms. Chmura responded that the County should pursue business opportunities and provide training. She also felt that the County needed to look at the skills/employers of the citizens who were commuting, and talk with those businesses about possible expansion into Stafford County.

Mr. G. William Beale, CEO and President of Union Bank & Trust (FRA and VEDP), gave a presentation and answered Board members questions.

Mr. Sterling asked what, in Mr. Beale's opinion, were important items for the County to focus on. Mr. Beale's response was workforce, keeping the drop-out rate low, keeping taxes low, and making businesses feel welcome.

Mr. Crisp asked Mr. Beale if the Fredericksburg Regional Alliance kept records of the total tax burden for the different localities in the area. Mr. Beale responded that to his knowledge they did not but he would look in to it and provide any information available to the Board as well as to Mr. Baroody.

Mr. Dudenhefer asked Mr. Beale if he thought there would be any interest in forming an Economic Council which would provide feedback to the County. He responded that it may be of benefit and suggested that the proposed Council meet quarterly.

Mr. Don Newlin, EDA Chairman, Anderson Strudwick, gave a presentation and answered Board members questions.

Mr. Sterling asked what, in Mr. Newlin's opinion, were important items for the County to focus on. Mr. Newlin's response was to encourage businesses, to make the permitting process easier, to watch the taxes on small businesses, and the monitor revenue streams.

Mr. Woodson wanted to know what the definition of a small business was. Mr. Newlin and Mr. Sterling responded that it is typically a business with a small number of employees (approximately 500 or less), but neither was sure of the exact definition.

Ms. Susan Spears, Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce, gave a presentation and answered Board members questions.

In her opinion, Ms Spears felt that the County should be "business friendly" and expressed her concerns regarding the BPOL tax.

Mr. Tim Baroody, Deputy County Administrator, gave a presentation and answered Board members questions.

Mr. Dudenhefer motioned, seconded by Mr. Sterling to adopt the Economic Development Action Plan 2010 and have staff provide a detailed list of ways to accomplish this at the February 2nd meeting.

Discussion ensued.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (7) Sterling, Milde, Woodson, Crisp, Dudenhefer, Stimpson, Snellings

Nay: (0)

The Stafford County Board of Supervisor's Economic Development Action Plan 2010

reads as follows:

Ten Point Plan

1. Improve overall Fiscal competitiveness;

2. Enact business friendly policy initiatives;

3. Improve Stafford's ability to attract and retain high quality workforce;

4. Improve Stafford transportation/public safety Infrastructure;

5. Accelerate redevelopment activities;

6. Create opportunities to gain more input on economic development policies from

the private sector;

7. Enhance small business assistance programs;

8. Create economic development incentive program;

9. Reinvigorate the Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Initiative;

10. Enhance FY2010 Economic Development Marketing Plan;

Mr. Milde motioned, seconded by Ms. Stimpson to authorize a public hearing on

February 2, 2010 to rescind Ordinance O08-64. Mr. Milde's motion further directed the

Commissioner of the Revenue and the Treasurer to immediately cease all actions

regarding the collection of the BPOL tax, which took effect Jan. 1, 2010.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (5) Milde, Stimpson, Dudenhefer, Sterling, Snellings

Nay: (2) Crisp, Woodson

Mr. Milde motioned to have an economic analysis on impact to reduce the boat tax.

Mr. Sterling made a friendly amendment to look at a broad array of taxes and what changes could be made.

Mr. Romanello stated that he would provide a cost for study at the January 19th meeting.

Mr. Dudenhefer made a friendly amendment to come back with details and take up a motion at the next meeting.

Mr. Sterling made a substitute motion for Mr. Romanello to come back at the next meeting and identify the cost of all taxes including the boat tax.

Mr. Milde made a friendly amendment to also identify the cost without the boat tax

The Voting Board tally to accept the friendly amendment was:

Yea: (4) Milde, Woodson, Crisp, Stimpson

Nay: (3) Sterling, Dudenhefer, Snellings

Mr. Milde motioned, seconded by Ms. Stimpson to identify the cost of the boat tax only.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (4) Milde, Sterling, Woodson, Stimpson

Nay: (3) Crisp, Dudenhefer, Snellings

<u>Legislative</u>; <u>Closed Meeting</u> At 10:15 P.M., Mr. Sterling motioned, seconded by Mr. Milde, to adopt proposed Resolution CM10-02.

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (7) Sterling, Milde, Woodson, Crisp, Dudenhefer, Stimpson, Snellings

Nay: (0)

Resolution CM10-02 reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Stafford County Board of Supervisors desires to consult with counsel and discuss in Closed Meeting an Economic Development matter regarding a Potential Business or Industry Prospect Where No Public Announcement Has Been Made of the Business' or Industry's interest in locating in Stafford County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 A.5, Va. Code Ann., such discussions may occur in Closed Meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 12th day of January, 2010, does hereby authorize discussions of the aforestated matters in Closed Meeting.

<u>Call to Order</u> At 11:02 P.M., the Chairman called the meeting back to order.

<u>Legislative</u>; <u>Closed Meeting Certification</u> Mr. Crisp motioned, seconded by Mr. Milde, to adopt proposed Resolution CM10-02(a).

The Voting Board tally was:

Yea: (7) Crisp, Milde, Dudenhefer, Snellings, Stimpson, Sterling, Woodson

Nay: (0)

Resolution CM10-02(a) reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION TO CERTIFY THE ACTIONS OF THE STAFFORD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN A CLOSED MEETING ON JANUARY 12, 2010

WHEREAS, the Board has, on this the 12th day of January, 2010 adjourned into a closed meeting in accordance with a formal vote of the Board and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, as it became effective July 1, 1989, provides for certification that such Closed Meeting was conducted in conformity with law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stafford County Board of Supervisors does hereby certify, on this the 12th day of January, 2010, that to the best of each member's knowledge: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were discussed in the Closed Meeting to which this certification applies; and (2) only such

public business matters as were identified in the Motion by which the said Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered by the Board.	
Adjournment At 10:08 P. M. the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.	
Anthony I. Romanello ICMA CM	——————————————————————————————————————
Anthony J. Romanello, ICMA-CM County Administrator	Mark Dudenneier Chairman
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